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M
Lunas
for Change



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Morgan

The Story of a Young Female Orca By Nicolette Moes

Years ago I spent a few nights in a hotel in a village called Harderwijk where the Dolfinarium of The Netherlands is situated. In the quiet night of my hotel room I could hear noises coming from the mammals inside.

It made me anxious. A feeling of loneliness overwhelmed me. I lay awake for a long time before I would finally fall asleep.

The next morning when I told my boyfriend, he told me about an Orca that was found and taken to the Dolfinarium. Her family was waiting for her at sea. I remember this outstanding rescue, and the joy I felt that the animal was still alive, being fed and getting better. I was very grateful that a judge in The Netherlands had said that the animal in no way was to be exposed for us, the people. It felt good to me that this animal was being released into the waters to be reunited with her family. That family knew where she was. And they were waiting.

I felt so touched by the idea. All was going to be well in the end. She would recover. In the meantime the Dolfinarium was not allowed to make some sort of toy out of her. That was good enough for me. It was 2010.

I couldn't have been more fooled. Where I thought this case was closed...with a happy

ending...something else was going on. (Now I am the naïve type, mind you, and it is hard for me to believe that the wellbeing of any creature is less important than how much you can gain from it... no matter what.) I heard this rumour that the little Orca, who was named Morgan, was going to be sold to a Park in Tenerife, Spain. I was furious. How could this beautiful living being be sold into captivity?

Several organisations and experts had been busy considering this young killer whale's fate. Some of them in favour of the Dolfinarium. We soon learned, that the Dolfinarium had paid their experts.

In Tenerife the outcome was published: The Orca was deaf so she would not be able to hunt nor would she be accepted by her family. She would be alone to die. Conclusion: Morgan was better off in captivity.

Dr Ingrid Visser, who is an expert on Orcas, and Richard O'Barry, (best known for training Flipper) who is an expert in training and releasing dolphins back into the wild, joined hands in court.

The Free Morgan Foundation asked the judges to re-evaluate the decision made by the Dutch authorities, to give the permit for her transport to Lloro Park in Tenerife, Spain.

The subsequent hearing was held in Amsterdam. My son, 17 years old, accompanied me. People from different nations came to support this case. Three judges were in the courtroom to listen to the experts and the Dolfinarium and the owner of the Lloro Park.

By this time there was great evidence that Morgan was being bitten and bullied by the other Orcas. In the courtroom I learned that the Lloro Park was just another park owned by Sea World and that SeaWorld was desperately looking for a young female for their breeding program.

My God, I was such a fool to believe in my fairytales. This was all about big bucks and a great fear came over me. When you have so much money and so much power, how strong will our system be? Will it be strong enough to speak the truth? Or will it be manipulated by the power of money?

I was pleased to see that the judge took his time to listen to all parties. Dr Ingrid Visser showed us her PowerPoint presentation, full of photographs of Morgan: where she was bitten; how many bite marks she had; how she was sexually attacked by male Orcas while she was too young to mate.

I couldn't hold back. I wept like a baby. I felt that anxious feeling again, and wanted nothing more than to protect her.

Richard O' Barry spoke about how he had successfully released dolphins into the wild. He believed this would be an opportunity for Morgan too. Of course, he said truthfully, he wasn't sure. But release plans were made and we could make a start. My thoughts were: "What are you waiting for?"

The answer is now known. We were waiting for Morgan to be old enough to provide offspring for SeaWorld.

The disappointing outcome of the court case felt like a tragedy for me. I left the courtroom crying and numb. The court said that the Dutch ministry had not been operating illegally.

It was now November 2011. Morgan was rescued in June 2010.

Just two weeks ago, there was a high appeal in The Hague. More people from all over the world came to support Morgan's case. Again, a PowerPoint presentation was shown by Dr Ingrid Visser. This time Dr Ingrid Visser could tell the judges she was no longer allowed into the Park. She was taken away by Police and she was not able to do any research. Access denied. This time I wasn't there, but I heard from friends that there was a good vibe in the court room. Again, all people were allowed to be inside.

It will take another six weeks (four as I write this) to hear the outcome.

For me it will be a dream come true if Morgan is released into the wild again. But it is only when all Orcas and all mammals are no longer destined to live their lives in captivity that I will be content. You can only do so much. Raising awareness is so important. On any subject.

If this resonates with you, please join us. Join hands and create a better, more loving world, for you, me, and all creatures in and on it. We, the people, depend on our oceans and all sea life.

It is time to make a change. Make that change in whatever brings joy to your heart. ■

For Morgan

Written by Nicolette Moes

Dec 2013

Sometimes I wonder Little One
Will your freedom ever come
Greedy men have used money as a tool
To let you now live in a public pool

Is this your spiritual Path lying in front of me
A higher purpose For humanity
Is this the Co-Creation we talk about
Are we called forth to write and speak out loud

I feel ashamed I can do so little for you
Sometimes too tired or too many things to do
Spread awareness on this lack of dignity
Dream about buying you out of your misery

Like you there are so many out there
Slowly going crazy in a life of despair
All for the money and this awful greed
Is there anything this world would need

I think it is time to open up our hearts again
To really feel what is going on and then
Decide the world needs love and freedom
For people and children and the animal kingdom

Nature is important for our Earth's soul
And without it living is a purposeless goal
I feel love for those who want a world with peace
Who want to end this terrible grief

For any creature is a worthy being
And it will only take time before we start seeing
It is all in our awareness to make that change
It is time to wake up and Rearrange

Anything that is dear to your heart
Is worth listening to: So make a start
Little by little stop and listen
Feel where you can free yourself from this prison

That the world has nothing to do with you
There really is no separation between those two
Morgan has touched me deeply inside
All that feels wrong I can no longer hide

My hope is that for all those who have suffered
The grace of love will finally be discovered
For when we truly love ourselves deep
Only love and kindness will be left for all in need.

BREAST



CANCER

OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

A's

Collaborators for Change

Tim Greene and Shachi Srivastava have built a partnership through art. The artists have spent the past year joining their creative voices to raise awareness regarding social issues plaguing our global community. Using social media and technology to overcome obstacles such as time and distance, these two have let nothing stand in their way of making a difference. Their latest project focuses on breast cancer awareness.

What inspired you to create a project to encourage and celebrate people fighting breast cancer?

TG: Cancer is truly a relentless disease that takes no prisoners. I wanted Shachi & I to emancipate those who are fighting the disease & celebrate the survivors who are really strong in spirit & mind. I think there is a void that needs to be filled in the art world concerning issues that really affect us as humans. I needed help from someone whose art would connect with my chemical DNA of ideas because I always believe in the philosophy that two heads are better than one & that artist is Shachi.

You and Tim have very different styles and backgrounds. How do you make the collaborations work?

SS: True. Timanimal and I have very different styles and we both work on each of the collaborations sitting miles away. Most of the times, Timanimal

comes up with an idea for a project, and art directs. Sometimes he shares some concepts to get inspired while working on a piece. I have always been amazed at his ideas and the concepts he comes up with. The best part of our collaboration is that we are free to work in our styles, no boundaries, no pressures. Every time we start on a collab, Timanimal says “do your magic”. This has been motivating me to expand my creativity. And once I am done with mine, he adds his magic to the pieces we work.





It is well known that you do a lot of research before starting a project. What did you learn while working on the breast cancer awareness project?

SS: Yes, I do a lot of research when I work on any subject or theme. The breast cancer awareness collaboration also is no exception. I learnt a lot about the breast cancer, like how important it is to get yourself checked regularly, keep an eye for any sort of lumps etc. there are many resources you can read online and get aware. What's most important is to be aware! I have read stories of those who have gone through the trauma, and how strong they became fighting the cancer. I salute them! I cannot imagine the pain or the emotional imbalance they go through, I can only pray for them to get stronger each day to fight and be the real winners and heroes!

Apart from learning about the cancer bully, I also learnt I could Art direct. All thanks to Timanimal for believing in me and trusting my directions. With every collaboration, I go one step higher in art. I learn so much working with him!

Why do you think people respond so well to art when it comes to addressing social issues?

TG: I think the main reason why people respond to art with social stories behind them is because of the emotional connection between the eye & the soul. We are the drivers of the emotional vehicle of art & it's our duty that the viewer really feels the raw emotion of our work. When art is done in such a manner that it impact the mental psyche then that means the message is potentially packing a punch & the artist's mission is accomplished.

Tim's art has sent a message on everything from drug abuse to domestic violence. Which issue was the hardest to address?

SS: I had a hard time working on human trafficking collab. As I said earlier, I do my research before starting on a subject or theme, I did the same during the collab. It shocked me each time I read about the atrocities we humans are showering upon other humans, little kids, gender doesn't matter, organs thefts, prostitution, rapes and what nots. I learnt that human trafficking is not just



prostitution it's all of the above what I mentioned. It's equal to snatching away a person's rights. Violating all laws of life. My heart broke every time I read a story of someone who went through these traumatic experiences. The worst shock I got was when I learnt only 2% of the victims ever get rescued and human trafficking is a million dollar business!! How can you sell what is not yours? How can you steal a kid from his/her mom? Don't these people have hearts? These are the questions which keep haunting me ever since I learnt about the heinous crime people commit every second in this entire world. I just wish people open their eyes and see that if it's not their daughter or sons, that doesn't mean they don't have hearts and souls. We all should Help them if we find anything not right in front of us, or in our neighborhoods, we should act immediately and report about it to authorities and try to save a soul in all ways possible. We should all fight together towards this social atrocity!

How important is it for an artist to be a voice for the community?

TG: It's very important because we make up the moral fabric of society. We should not only be a voice for a community but for mankind. Whatever affects us we need to speak up & be heard; paint & become iconic; fight for whatever you believe in & make your message transcend beyond the borders of your nation. That's the main reason why I like to target specific issues or subjects that may be regarded as taboo. Creativity takes a lot of courage. So to all aspiring artists-- do not become a prisoner of yourself, style, reputation or success. Release art as if you are all freedom fighters fighting for one common cause which is to make the world a better place via talent & art.

I would also like to thank my friend Shachi for believing in my vision of making art with a message gift wrapped for the viewer to unravel. ■

Shachi Sr



Mother Earth

In this artwork, a man and a woman together are trying to nurture and protect a tree like their own child, which grows and gives all of us food, shade, clean air and water. The roots of a tree depicts a strong physical support and the Leaf of the tree symbolizes the support for the clean fresh air. These essential elements which we all need comes from Earth and if we dont start respecting the blessings of Mother Earth now, it might be too late. So let's join hands together to protect our Planet. Let's celebrate Earth Day every day!



Biography:

Shachi Srivastava, a self-taught versatile artist, loves to learn new art styles and have a strong affinity towards bright colors and acrylic medium. Her passion is painting. Currently living in a world of her dreams, communicating through her colorful expressions and experimenting with various art forms. Every painting she makes is a depiction of Love for Life. Her inspirations are from Day to Day life, Love and emotions.

ivastava



Environmental



Rudra Kedar

This is a two part artwork, containing Rudra Kedar -1 and Rudra Kedar -2 works. Recently, in my homeland India, there has been floods in Kedarnath, a very auspicious place considered as Tirth Sthal (Holy Land for the Hindus, one of the Char Dham as is called in India). My heart goes out to the people who have lost their lives and who have been injured there. There had been a severe flood which killed many pilgrims who were visiting the temples. Lord Shiva has been known as bholanath who is very simple. But at the same time he is very short tempered. I may be wrong, but I feel He is angry, full of rage because of all the injustices and crimes taking place in India. And I feel He has shown his Rudra rupa, meaning terrible face, to send us a message to fix the issues, else no human can survive the rage of Him.



Human Trafficking:

Represents the True skin of someone being trafficked. The textual matter are in reflections which says, Stop Human Trafficking. I am a human being not an object. This is a part of the collaboration art series I did with Timanimal Greene.

Pandemonium:

This artwork depicts the Pandemonium of our planet, where people are going crazy and creating mess everywhere. The grey heart of the girl in grey symbolizes Coldness and it's also tied up in chains and bleeding, the blood is flowing down to the roots of life and making the earth dirty. The top half of the work depicts the nerves which are burning and creating a fiery atmosphere above...the face/head contains some nuts which shows the manipulative minds and faces. This is a collaborative work I did with Timanimal Greene.



Bull Fight The Cancer:

This is called Bull fight the cancer, The bull is the scourge known as Cancer which is being defeated by the prized heroic fighter who never backs down. The real fighters are the survivors who lives to tell a story of triumph we salute you all. This is a Collaboration art piece by Timanimal Greene and Shachi Srivastava.



Social



She – The Silent Voices:

While I was writing this poetry, I had two people in my mind:

- I) Women a rapist disrespects
 - a) By dishonoring/abusing the girl/woman physically ;
 - b) Dishonoring the woman who gave birth to him; by committing such an act.

II) Rapist

As a woman, a girl sees a lot of pain and suffering.. not that all girls face these issues, but I am writing considering the way girls have been treated so far in many communities and places..first stanza of my poetry speaks about the unborn girls who are killed while still in their mothers' wombs, and then there are those who are boycotted by society, not given equality or freedom..but there are also those who are welcomed with open hearts and smiles.. the lucky ones to be in the right place at the right time I guess.

Poetry:

Sometimes I am welcomed with open heart,
Sometimes I become the soul of my family,
Sometimes I am so not welcome that they make
my soul depart,
Sometimes I become the pain for society!

They are born as blessings to a family,
No one hurts them, the way they hurt me,
They care for him in ways to a better human
And yet he doesn't respect me
He kills me, he forces his will on me
He finds ways to torture me
Torment me for my entire life,
So much that I start praying to god
To not have me a girl in my next life
To not have any poor soul get in a body of a girl.
For she is not a human, she is a girl with a body for
him to relish
With lust, and with force..coz he has the right to
live and I don't.

Of yes, I feel great to be the one to give birth to
him
I feel wonderful to be his mom
I feel proud to have brought him into this beautiful
world
Only to learn the sad reality,
That he is here only to prove he is better, he is
stronger
In ways that makes him a coward
Who hides his true face in light
And feels he has the right to disrespect me,
Everytime he plays with the respect of a girl.

He is no one but just a rapist!
He has to be stopped with severity.
For the day is not far when she revolts with gods,
And doesn't come to earth for adding beauty and
life.
Trust me that's the day this beautiful world will sink
And be flooded in her tears of suffering!

All on you



Congratulations to Rahil Babooram! An environmental song he originally wrote in 2007 appeared on his much anticipated fourth album, "Cuatro". In 2013, the song spent 28 weeks on the Indigenous radio chart and even held the number one spot for four weeks! During this time, Babooram has toured the island of Trinidad performing the song before a live audience.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vzqir0RR09c>

"All on you"

by Rahil Babooram (2007-04-17)
© 2007 Rahil Babooram Music, COTT
from the album "CUATRO"

Take a walk any day
Do you still see much green on your way?

Throw your garbage anywhere
Apparently the effects don't seem to scare

Burn your trash, fill the air
You don't care a thing about the atmosphere

Chorus:

The birds in the trees know how to behave, so why
can't we just take pattern?
The shame is all on you

What goes around comes around, when it's all
gone, what will we do?
The blame is only on you

You complain about the drains
Yet you are the one who causes all these pains

Dump the chemicals in the seas
Then you wonder how come there's so much
disease

"Oh the place is getting so hot"
In spite of this you are really doing what?
(repeat chorus)

You can put blame on the government
But a lot is due to your own abandonment

Scream and shout about aluminum smelter
But daily you degrade your own shelter

Apart from becoming unhealthier,
Paid to destroy your home doesn't make you any
wealthier

The rain forest gives so much life
But you clear it away to give animals death and
strife

The soya you feed the sentenced cows
Should be used instead to feed countless hungry
mouths

I can really only sing so much but it's up to us to
act and not just watch

(repeat chorus x 3)



© Meadow Monioz



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4lcbtEVTjg&feature=youtu.be>

Project Vena

Project Vena is all about the environment! My team includes myself, Vena, my 11 year-old brother Vic & our family. Our mission is to save the planet through education, healthy living, & the reduction of our carbon footprint. Follow us on our journey!

By sustaining the Earth and all of her resources, we sustain humanity. The Earth does so much more than just revolve around the sun. She shelters us, feeds us, and provides for us. We need to take care of each other! We can start by making small changes in our lifestyle. Simple things like recycling, eating raw, and modelling healthy behaviour for the next generation can mean a lot to the Earth. So start today!"

Project Vena founder, Toriana Vena, is just thirteen years old. But she is already leading the way for change. Earlier in 2013, she had her first poetry reading with the Open Up! family at Digicel IMAX Theatre in Port of Spain. In November, she was invited to host an online art challenge for the international 30 Day Artist Challenge (30dac).

What started as a young child's ideas kept in a small notepad is now growing. Kudos to the Project Vena team for inspiring us all to do our part for change and to live our dreams! ■

(*You can find Project Vena, Open Up! and the 30dac on facebook.)

*A Tree for Vena
Medium: Recycled Newspaper Sculpture
and Photography
Meadow Monioz*



2



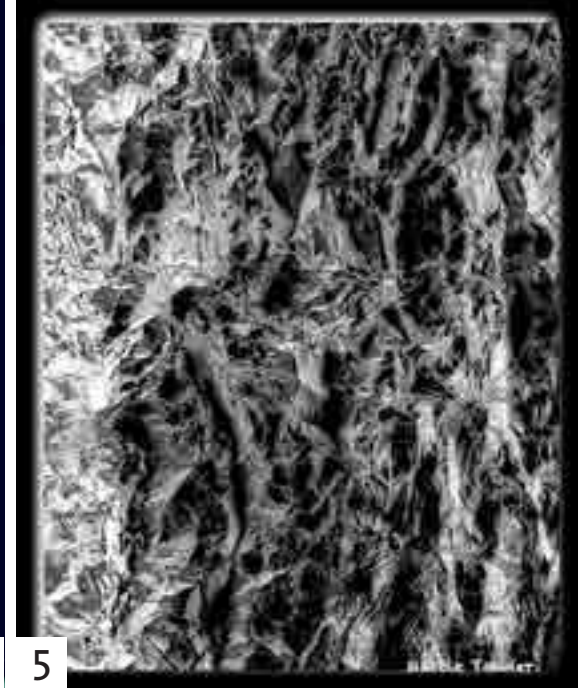
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3

8





1 Bird should not be caged
Medium: Newspaper, acrylics & mixed media
Prakriti Sinha

2 Cereal Purses
Medium: Cereal Boxes, hot glue, remnant fabric and trim
Kathryn Andries Muse

3 my weekend piece
Medium: paint and cardboard .stuc

4 Peace
Medium: Cereal Box
Darren Heydon

5 Caught in a Nightmare
Medium: Aluminum foil & Photography
Marcie Tanner

6 Moon Over Mountain Peaks
Medium: Foil
Deborah Moen

7 Dope
Medium: Digital art/ paint
Tim Greene

8 Project Board
Medium: Cardboard
Vena & Vic



Jean Stardeau



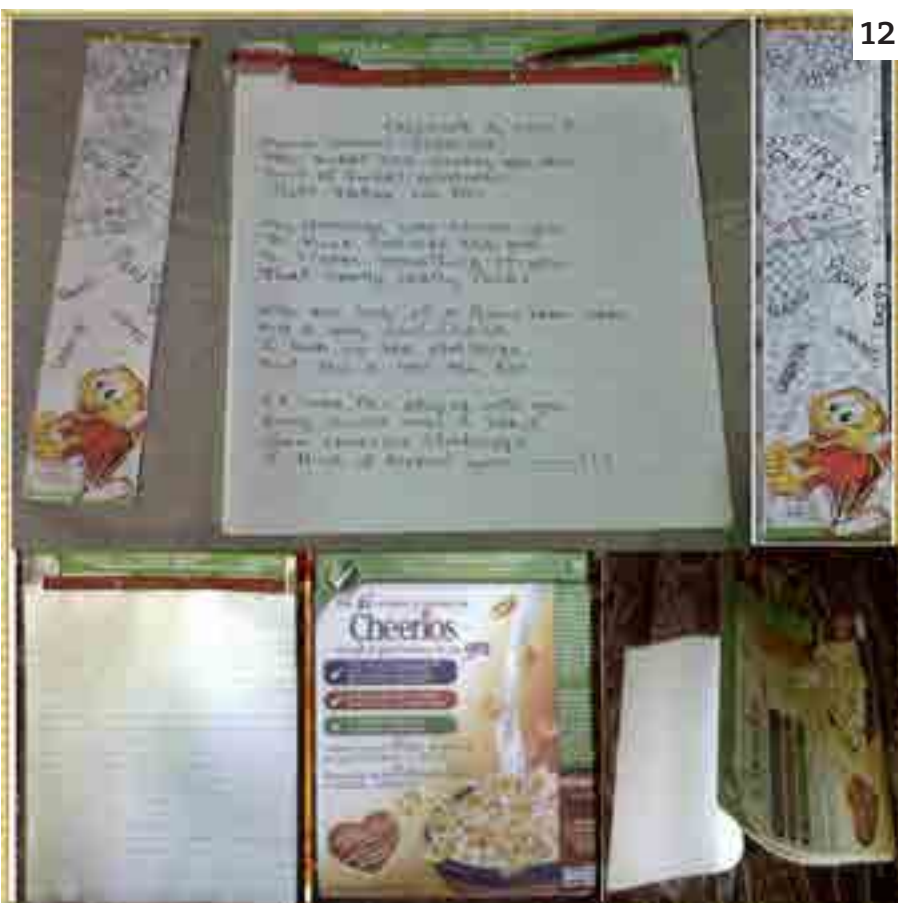
- 9 Cardboard Gratitude**
Medium: Cardboard and accessories
Jean Stardeau

- 10 'Flakey' -The Corny Parrot**
Medium : Kellogg's Corn Flakes box
Vidya Vivek

- 11 Mermaid Sunshine**
Medium: acrylic on foil
Lee Ann

- 12 Cheerios**
Medium: Poetry / photography/ Arts and crafts
Vinnie R

9



12

- 13 Moonlight Beachcombing**
Materials: Aluminum Foil, sea shells, recycled glass, Amazonite beads and Freshwater Pearls
Cynthia Burdick

- 14 Twisted**
Medium: 1 x Honey Nut Loops cereal packet & 1 x Cookie Crisps cereal packet. Enamel spray paints.
Susan Sloane



10



11



13

14





15



17



16



18

15 Royal Elephant
Media : Cardboard & acrylics
Pragati Sinha

17 Beautiful Discovery
Medium: Magazine clippings,
Photo Editing
Sara Litardo

16 Rose
Medium: Aluminum foil, hot glue
and spray paint
Heather Schroeder

18 Fish World inboxed
Medium: Froot Loops Box, acrylic
color, foam stickers, foam, Sharpie
and glue
Shachi Srivastava

Pens

Medium: poetry

Tim Morris

ad men
mad men
sad men
stab your brother
in the back men
newsprint stains
the fingers like
blood
dripping from corporate
pens
writing everything but
the truth
hidden behind a paycheck
fair
indiscriminate
honest
wallets bulging
while cupboards are bare
no one died today
go out and play
just an oil spill they say
go out and play
the water will be fine
go out and play
just a little slime
go out and play
newsprint stains
the soul like
blood
dripping from the cut throat
pens sealing the deal

11/17/13



The Children of Darfur

By Dawn Lotharius

I have played many roles, I have been a karate instructor, a waitress and bartender, and a Pan Am flight Attendant. I went to college for Communication Arts, and worked with several companies as a graphic designer, including Precious Moments, which had me creating product lines with huge companies like Hallmark and Mattel, and traveling all over the world to source product. I am an illustrator, artist, writer, songwriter, child advocate, student of Love and All of Life's Truths, Minister of the Able Axiom Life Center, and mother of four incredible children.

Several years ago, as I was nursing my youngest baby and perusing cable channels, I came across a documentary just as it showed several children drawing pictures, just as my children would. I did not know what the film was about, but the children coloring caught my curiosity. What were they drawing? I saw what looked to be like blue skies, clouds, planes, domed huts, red scribbles... human shapes and more red... and I became nauseous as I realized the heavy red scribbles on the faces of the people, on the faces of their families and friends, were blood!

These were the children of Darfur. My heart broke. I was stunned, I'd seen nothing about this in the mass media (which I no longer watch). How could

it be that this unbelievable inhumanity was so silenced? I wanted to hug the children back into love. It was so disempowering to feel there was nothing I could do (but make a donation). I did see that there were good people and organizations doing what they could (with little funding), even some celebrities giving their time, money, and clout. But how could so many others in "positions of power" do nothing?

As I heard myself think that, I caught myself. *I* was in a position of power. Everyone is. We are made of this integrating, healing energy called love. And it is the most powerful force in life, it IS life. I've seen what it can do, what I can do, when I choose to embrace it, and focus it purely. So I could focus this energy positively for Darfur, knowing it had power.

I wrote this song to process through my own horror of what they went through, to keep eyes open and honest, to bridge ignorance, and to honor the children of Darfur. I wrote my prayer to focus my love for them, and offer my request to God on their behalf.

I send all the children of Darfur, young and old, and those that help them, so much love. And I ask for more inspiration towards love for us all.

THE CHILDREN OF DARFUR

A child dies
don't ask them why
already know what history shows
loveless men lie
A mother's heart too hurt to cry
holds her child in ruby red
stares at the sky
And they remember her,
the children of Darfur

When they draw pictures
with free crayons
given to them by the men without the bombs
No, they can't save them
from what they saw
loved ones screaming, faces streaming
red crayon

Airplanes fly
baby blue skies
dropping fire red on homes below that cry
Fathers run
calling for sons
tiny fingers flee from those wrapped around guns
Steel feels no one
gray smoke blocks out the sun...

When they draw pictures
with free crayons
given to them by the men without the bombs
No, they can't save them
from what they saw
loved ones screaming, faces streaming
red crayon

Burnt orange pens
in polished hands
that sit and smoke around a table
argue plans
while children draw what children saw
Man forsaking them again
in red crayon
How can so much be so very wrong?

When they draw pictures...
When they draw pictures...

When they draw pictures
my heart beats strong
calling to a power (so much) bigger than the bombs
and it can save them
from what they saw
Love can give these children something new to draw

Ask and ye shall receive
I weave my hands
I'm asking please...

PRAYER FOR THE CHILDREN OF DARFUR

Dear God I pray
for sure Godspeed
Inspire us to perfect action,
help us see
past all the smoke
don't let us fall
Help angels fly so these children soon can draw
happy homes
garden beds
families reunited
hearts in red
and water splashing
through all Darfur
clean wells and food for every son, every daughter
May they be safe,
and grow so strong
May they smile,
may they laugh,
know they belong
Bless hands again
Give grace to pain
Let them heal, let them feel sanity reign

Inspire love, the strength it gives
to every heart, to every spirit
joy to live
To young and old, to meek and bold
send your warmth,
save your children from the cold

All this and more I ask for them
make a way, your daughter prays
in grace,
Amen

and so it is I know
in grace
Amen ~

Dawn Lotharius
copyright 2008

mona saroya

Artist, poet, entrepreneur and filmmaker are only a few of the hats she wears. Mona Saroya, is also a proud mother and a change maker. And that change begins within. Her Kind Girl organization encourages young girls and women of all ages to not only perform random acts of kindness across the globe, but to also become their best selves.

Into the arms of Mother Nature
Where the earth shall hold me
Where the wind shall caress my skin
Where the sky shall comfort me
Here, I am not alone
Here, I am ONE with the ONE that contains the ALL
Here, I shall take refuge in the Sacred Nothingness
Here, the ETERNAL NOW cloaks me with her Freedom
Here, the music of my heart drums
I am LOVE, I am LOVE, I am LOVE, I am LOVE

© Mona Saroya

Dream a little dream,
Nurture it,
Let it go and let it be.
Wish a little wish
Nurture it,
Let it go and let it be.
Then you shall see, what is to be seen!

© Mona Saroya



Photo by Mayers Jay

Open Up!

**Interview with
Feli Renwick-Risbrooke
By Mika Maharaj**

The Open Up! forum provides a platform for all artistic disciplines. Comedy, spoken word, dance, music, and visual art can all be experienced under one roof. Members of the audience are asked to make a small donation which is then split evenly amongst the performing artists. Despite the long hours organizing each event, Renwick-Risbrooke takes nothing for herself.

And she isn't the only one giving. Space for Open Up! is donated free of charge. Venues include Veni Mange, Digicel IMAX Theatre and Stumblin' on the Avenue. It is partly because of their open hearts that Open Up! has been made possible. The faithful Open Up! following is yet another reason for its success.

Open Up!'s facebook group has over two thousand members and counting. And these aren't empty numbers. A large majority of the group is comprised of active members --- including the founder! Renwick-Risbrooke reads each poem; listens to every shared song; and even offers advice and encouragement.

Open Up! isn't just another facebook group or organization. It's a family. And as a family, they take care of each other. When artists aren't performing on stage, they are hard at work behind the scenes. They advertise, film and photograph each event. They arrive early to help set up and stay late to close it down. And more importantly, they share the love and keep each other going. That's the real secret to its success. Everyone gives of themselves.

Luna Art recently had a chance to chat with founder Feli Renwick-Risbrooke about her amazing Open Up! family:

Who is Feli? Tell us about the woman behind the scenes?

I'm FREE spirited, yet stubborn. I love LOVE! I'm VERY emotional, and passionate! I try to share a happy aura and go into seclusion when I'm down! Playful, yet Professional when it comes down to business! I enjoy dessssserts and loathe anything bitter! EXTREMELY Sexual, but not crude, as I try to use tact in expressing my sexuality in a comical way!

What inspired you to start an Open Up! series in Trinidad and Tobago?

I am truly BLESSED! God has me spoiled and I'm VERY grateful! Open Up! is through His will as it aims to express the true meaning of LOVE.... GIVING! Just sharing my initiative with Cayce Chandleur of Veni Mange when I was merely there supporting Locally established artistes, resulted in the gift of that restaurant as the first Open Up! forum. Subsequently a supporter Timothy Teemal shared the initiative with the CEO of Digicel Imax, and there the blessing of the second venue was bestowed. Through being exposed to Open Mics in the past like Songshine, Open and Speak Easy, to name a few, I became aware of the talent we are all gifted with and found it necessary for us to ALL have a place to share that talent!

Does your health impose any limitations on you?

My health issues, although potentially fatal, cannot stop my determination! I am definitely limited to

the extent to which I may desire to push myself... to the fullest and beyond. But I do have to be cognizant of the fact that it is better to do the little that I can than to overdo and not survive to do anymore! I TRY, so when I'm down I rest and when I'm up I get moving again to Open Up!

Why don't you request sponsorship, hold a fundraiser or ask to be compensated for your time?

I PREFER not to ASK ANYthing of ANYone! Open Up! is a non-profit initiative. The Artistes are the ones that should benefit from any form of Sponsorship or Funding! Open Up! is a LOVE-filled forum for artistic expression and does not seek to gain financial wealth in any way! The HAPPINESS & INSPIRATION received from everyone at Open Up! is compensation enough for my time. I sometimes even feel as though I'm indebted to you ALL for all the support!

Support is everything! Besides a full time job and a busy family life, Renwick-Risbrooke works hard to not only expand the Open Up! family, but to also find the right exposure for them. She spends countless hours inviting television stations, newspapers, event planners, talent scouts and magazines to Open Up! events. And her efforts are rarely in vain.

Huge thanks to Ms. Feli Renwick-Risbrooke for selflessly creating a love filled space where artists are paid, recognized and more importantly --- welcomed!



Kyle KC

Kyle Cowie was born on 30th May, 1990. He resides in Trincity, Trinidad and Tobago.

His musical career began at a very tender age as he was attracted to Trinidad & Tobago's national Instrument, the Steel Pan. At age 11, he competed in his first National Panorama.

Kyle led his Primary School's steel band to success in T&T's national Steel band music festival, where he played the Double Second Pan instead of his Much Desired Tenor Pan. Kyle emerged as Champion in a solo category, which was his first Title ever. He also worked closely with renowned Musician Ray Holman for two years.

Kyle began performing at Special Events Nationwide very early and continued while attending Queens Royal College. It was at Queens Royal College that he started to spread his wings. Kyle was always at the forefront of many concerts and tasted a number of stages Nationwide with his special, the National Anthem and a Pan Rendition/ Medley.

The year 2006 was like ah breakthrough year for Kyle as he performed in the Synergy TV Soca Star Finals accompanying eventual Winner 'Fireball' (Rohan Richards). He was again invited to perform with Richards in the 2006 International Soca Monarch (the biggest Event for T&T Carnival).

In 2007 he performed at the Calypso Fiesta in skinner Park accompanying Calypsonian Anthony Johnson and was a guest in the Dimanche Gras performing alongside Brian London. Kyle was also adjudged winner in various Steel Pan solo competitions, and was runner up in National Sanfest Competition.

Due to constant performing and desire to step foot on the International Soca Monarch stage again, Kyle decided to become a singer. He had performed with close friend Erphaan Alves on numerous occasions and was easily influenced to pick up a microphone. Kyle performed at his school's Carnival competition where he won the hearts of many but placed 3rd. He then graced the stage of Bishops Anstey High School for their mixed talent show 'mashin up d place' coming out victorious.

Kowwie: Bio

LISTEN



GONNA MAKE IT.mp3

In 2009, Kyle placed 2nd in Trinidad & Tobago's National Junior Soca Monarch with his Hit Song 'Higher Level'... He gained many supporters as he ended his performance leaving on ah Crane.

Kyle continued to pursue his career as a musician releasing 'FAR' Soca 2010, a very positive upbeat composition.

In 2011, 'SOMEBODY SAY KC' was the Chant when Kyle entered the Synergy Tv Soca Star 3+3 competition with his Hit Song 'SLOW MOTION WINE' (Soca 2011). Kyle's fans began to grow as he expressed his talent on the show entertaining night after night. Soca Star was another step taken on his road to success. Kyle showed versatility later that year releasing his first reggae track. 'BEEN HERE BEFORE' on the 'Show Version Riddim' this revealed another side of KC. The riddim included many top artistes, Isasha, Prophet Benjamin to name a few.

Kyle continued to show his versatility and increase in his vocal range when he sang Calypso. 'SOE ENCORE' was the track that earned him praises

from the mature Trinidad audience. Kyle was a finalist in many Calypso competitions throughout the country, among them, 'Arouca Calypso Monarch', San Juan Calypso Monarch' and 'Sangre Grande Calypso Monarch'. He placed 3rd in the NYAC Stars of Tomorrow Calypso Competition 2012 and was also one of the front liners in the NACC Generation Next Calypso Tent. Later that year Kyle released 'GONNA MAKE IT'. This was his contribution to the milestone of Trinidad and Tobago's 50th Independence Celebration.

Throughout 2013, Kyle has continued to develop his craft and explore in his music. The calypso 'AH NINJA' earned him a place in the YOUNG KINGS calypso competition. The Young Kings Monarch is the 2nd biggest calypso competition in Trinidad and Tobago's Carnival. Kyle gave a memorable performance and was certainly the crowd pleaser on that night. Again he was a cast member of the Generation Next Calypso Tent. 'SOCA LUV' a sweet Groovy Track was released for the carnival and it surged into different markets, playing in JAPAN.